CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, and 20 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an external cavity laser having a silicon etalon heater, the silicon etalon heater having:

a single-crystal silicon active region fully or partially transparent to an optical signal;

a bulk silicon inactive region; and

a membrane coupling the single-crystal silicon active region to the bulk silicon inactive region,

the single-crystal silicon active region having a dopant, the single-crystal active region being ~~doped to make it~~ electrically conductive, the single-crystal active region ~~in order to~~ being thermally [[tune]] tunable, the single-crystal silicon active region to pass a specific wavelength in response to the received optical signal.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region includes a p-type material dopant.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region includes a boron (B) dopant.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region includes an n-type material dopant.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region includes a phosphorous (P) dopant.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region includes an arsenic (As) dopant.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is a silicon nitride (SiN) membrane, with varying atomic ratios of silicon and nitrogen.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is a silicon oxide (SiO_2) membrane.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a temperature sensor formed on the single-crystal silicon active region.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a platinum temperature sensor formed on the single-crystal silicon active region.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising gold bond pads mounted to the perimeter of the single-crystal silicon active region.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising bond pads mounted to the top of the single-crystal silicon active region.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising bond pads mounted to the bottom of the single-crystal silicon active region.

14. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a transponder having [[a]] an external cavity laser, the external cavity laser having a silicon etalon heater, the silicon etalon heater having:

~~wavelength selective element, the wavelength selective element~~ a silicon etalon heater having a single-crystal silicon active region adapted to receive an optical signal, a bulk silicon inactive region, and a membrane coupling the single-crystal silicon active region to the bulk silicon inactive region, the single-crystal silicon active region ~~doped to make it both~~ being electrically conductive and thermally conductive, the single-crystal silicon active region

coupled ~~so as~~ to receive a current to thermally tune the single-crystal silicon active region to pass a wavelength in response to the received optical signal; and

an erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA) coupled to the transponder.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a multiplexer coupled to the EDFA.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising an add-drop multiplexer coupled to the EDFA.

17. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

tuning an external cavity laser using a silicon etalon heater by:

adjusting resistivity of ~~a doped~~ the silicon etalon heater, the silicon etalon having a membrane coupling a single-crystal silicon active region to a bulk silicon inactive region, wherein adjusting the resistivity comprises doping the active region of the silicon etalon; [[and]]

applying a current to the ~~doped~~ silicon etalon heater; and

~~to thermally tune the doped silicon etalon to~~ selecting a wavelength in response to an incident optical signal using the current applied to the silicon etalon heater.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising applying a second current to the doped silicon etalon to thermally tune the doped silicon etalon to select a second wavelength.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising sensing the temperature of the doped silicon etalon.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a laser having:

a cavity; and

a doped silicon etalon heater positioned in the cavity, wherein the doped silicon etalon comprises a membrane coupling a single-crystal silicon active region to a bulk silicon inactive region, wherein the single-crystal silicon active region is electrically conductive, and wherein the doped silicon etalon heater is to receive a current to tune the laser.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the doped silicon etalon includes a p-type material dopant.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the doped silicon etalon includes a boron (B) dopant.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the doped silicon etalon includes an n-type material dopant.